

f. / wanting
Hic Incipit prius Cathe.

Cū aīadūterē quā plurimos hōies gūiter errare

Whan I aduerte to my remembrance

And see how fele folkes erren greuously

In the Wey of Vertuose gouernance

I haue supposed in myn hert that I

Oughte to suppozte & conseyle prudently

Them to be Vertuous in luyng

And how they shal thm self in honour bring

Igitur fili carissime docebo te quo pacto mores

Therefore my leue child I shal now telle the

Herken me Wele the maner and the guise

How thy soule inwards shal acquainted be

With thynges good & Vertues in al Wyse

Rede and conceyue for he is to dyspyse

That redith ay & Wote not What it ment

Suche reding is no thing but Wynde mispout

Itaqz deo supplica parentes ama

Pray thy god & preise him With al thy hert

Fader and moder haue ay in reuerence

Loue hem Wele and be thou neuer to smert

To here men is conseil but kepe the thyngs

Til thou be cleped be clene Without offence
Salve gladly to hym that is more digne
Than art thy self þu shalt thy place designe
Magistrum metue. Rem tuam custodi

Drede thy maistre thy thyngs loke thou kepe
Take hede to thyn honshold as loue thy Wyf
Pleasant Wordes out of thy mouth shold crepe
Be not Irouis kepe thy behestes as thy lyp
Be temperat With Wyne & be not excessif
Thy Wyf is Wordes take in noon auctorite
In foly slepe nomore than nedith the
Libros lege libros disce quod legeris memento

In goodly bokes Whilom shalt thou rede
And that thou redest in thy mynde thou shilt
Sterre no Wight to Wrath lye not I the rede
Do Wele to god and be Wil the este quyte
Be not Wikked ner to the Wikked knyt
Stonde in the place of pletynge exerceyse
Deme the right and be conseyled of the Wyse
Two lude aleas fuge pactu serua

Play With the toppe the dises loke þu eschebe
Dispise noman kepe euer thy behest

Sorne neuer Woeche than shalt þu neuer reb

3
Coueyte no man is good? speke felde atte feste
Loke thy vengeance be alwey With the leeste
Who hath don the good? haue in remembrance
Loue every Wight and? this shal the auance

Beholde my maistre this litel trectyse
Whiche is ful of Wit and? sapience
Enforce the this matere to accomplishe
Thinke hit is translated? at your reuerence
Enrolle hit therfore in your aduertence
And? desire for to knowe What cathon mente
Whan ye it rede let not your hert be thense
But doth as this saith With al your hole entente

• Hic finis parui cathonis. •

• Hic Incipit magnus Catho.

I deus est aīmus nobis Et carmina dicūt
Hic tibi precipue sit pura mente colendus
For thy that god is in wardly the wit
Of man and geueth hym vnderstanding
As dices sayne therfore shalt thou vnsit
Thyn hert to thy souerayn lord & kyng
And principally a boue al other thing
Geuyn hym laude/honour and reuerence
Whiche hath the endowedy With excellence
Plus vigila semper ne sompno deditus esto
Nā diuturna quies vicijs alimenta ministrat
A Wake my child and loue no slorgardye
In moche slepe loke thou neuer delite
If thou purpose to worship for to stye
Longe slepe & slouth to vice doon men excite
It maketh men dul It makith hem vnpfite
It fosterith vp filthes of the flesshe
It palleth also and wasteth blodis fresshe
Virtutem primā puta esse compescere linguam
Proprius ille deo qui scit ratione tacere
Trusteth Wele also the first of vertues alle

4
 Ye to be stille and kepe thy tonge in meete
 Of tonge vntpede moche harme may falle.
 Leue me wele this is as the gospel telle
 Who that can delauiaunce of wordes escheue
 And reste with reason this is hersey text
 To god above that man is alder next
 Sperne repugnando tibi tu contrarius esse
 Conueniet nulli qui secum diffidet ipse
 Advise the wele that thou neuer traaverse
 Thy owne sentence for therof sueth shame
 Sey not oon & este the contrarie therce
 Such repugnance wol make thy worship lame
 Where stedfastnesse wol cause thy good fame
 For he shal neuer acorde with man on lyue
 That with him self wil ay repugne & stryue
 Si vitam inspicias hominem si demigis mores
 Cum culpas alios nemo sine crimine viuunt
 If thou aduertysc and beholde aboute
 The lyues of men and maners also
 Bothe of thy self and other the withoute
 In myddelert thou shalt fynde who
 That in some part nys vertue foo
 Blame no man therfore yf you do a right

Sich in erth lakes lueth no Wight
Que noitura tenes quāuis sint cura relinque
Utilitas opibus preponi tempore debet
If thou suppose thingz that shal noye & greue
Thaugh they be dere & right gret of price
Suche as suffreth not thy prouffit achieue
If thou lust to be reuled as the Wyse
Absteyne the from suche thingz in al Wyse
For it is more Wisdomy in sothfastnesse
To pr:ferre prouffit than suche richesse
Constans et leuis Ut res exoptulat esto
Temporibus mores sapiens sine crimine mutat
It is a goodz lesson for the nonys
A Wight to be tempred With constaunce
And to be glad and mery esteones
Not alwey sad ne light of countenance
A man is there may hym ful of te auance
For at iche tyme as the thingz requireth
So the Wyse man Visaget and chereth
Nil temere sponi de seruis crede querenti
Sepe etenim mulier que coniunx diligit odit
Gyf no credence alwey to thy Wyl
That for hire Ie and Impaciens

5
With sharper tonge than is swerd or knyfe
Playneth on thy seruant though non offence
Thou fynde in hym lerne wele this sentence
The Wyf wol hate and cause to smert
Often hym that hire konstaunt loueth in lert
Cumqz moneas aliquē nec se xlit ipse moneri
Si tibi sit carus noli desistere ceptis

And yf thou warne a Wight of his fozfete
al though he grutcheth with frowning cōte nāce
And in his langage manace the & threte
Yet forbere thou not for al suche displeasance
To teche hym to amende his gouernance
As thou began correcte that is a myste

And that is a frendly teche I Wyffe

• Contra verbosos noli contendere verbis

Sermo datur amatis animi sapientia patiens

Apensf Woordy folk ar ful of Wynde
Stryue not at al It may not the prouf yte
Suche rassyhe folkes ben in conceytes blynde
The Witles Word auayleth not a myte
In fele Wordes is ofte Wisedam ful yte
For vnto every Wight is gauen speche
And yet the Wyse ful of te ben for to sech:

Dilige sic alios ut sis tibi carus amicus
Sic bonus esto hominis ne te mala dampna sequatur

Loue other men and haue them so in chere
That to thy self thy loue moost extende
Loke no personne be to the more dere
Than thy self estat for than thou shalt offende
And hurte thy self & other folke amende
But euer cherissh other & loue hem soo
That to thy self thou be founden no foe

Rumores fuge ne incipias nouus auctor haberi
Nam nulli tacuisse nocet nocet esse locutum

Tydinges new that fley as the wynde
Escheve my child with al thy diligence
Be neuer kesp new tidmges to fynde
Suche nouelte causeth ofte offence
It is no wit It is no sapience
It hurteth not a man to be in pees

But it doth harme to put his tonge in pees

Rem tibi promissam certam pmittere noli

Rara fides ideo quia multi multa loquuntur

Make no promyse of other men is best
Remembre wele that promyse is vn sure
But yf thou kepe thy name thou shalt

To serue thy behest do thy besy care
Trust not the Word of euery creature
Some man is feith is esy to breke

For many folkes thinke not as they speke
Cū te aliquis laudat iudex tuus esse memento
Plus alius de te quā tu tibi credere noli

With Wordes faire Whan fauel fedith the
Be thou not blynde for his fals flatterye
Late thyn owne reason alwey thy Iugge be
And in effect yf thyn estat be hye
though fauel With his craft wil blynde thyn eye
In al thy lyp thou neuer geue credence
More to thy self than to thy conscience

Officiū alterius multis narrare memento
Atq; alius cum tu benefeceris ipse sileto

Whan thou seest a nother man is desert
As for his good dedes comendable

In euery place praye or a part

Suche a Wight With thy good Word enable

And though he haue ben by the auaylable

Yet of thy good dede make thou no bohaunce

And than shal other men thyn name enhaunce

Multorum cum facta senex et dicta resensus

Fac tibi succurrant iuuenis que feceris ipse
And yf thou liue longe an old mā shalt y be
Olde wol approuche maugre Who seith nay
Than perceyue beholde aboute and see
Holde aged folk ben trected With al day
And so pouruey for thy self a say
Into stouppynge age Whan thou art crept
Thing may y help y in thyn youthe Was kept
Ne cures si quis tacito sermone loquatur
Consciūs ipse sibi de se putat omnia dici
Charge not al thāugh y see men speke softe
Ne change no chere for ofte it is ful bet
In secret Wyse to speke than crye on losse
A man sholde see alwey Where he were set
And after that so sholde he speke or let
But to the suspect of harme it semeth
Men speke of hym he noon other demeth
Cum fueris felix que sunt aduersa cauet
Alon eodem cursu respondent Vltima primis
Whan fortune hath yeuē the felicitye
And set the on high than be War of a fal
Than sueth ofte suche sharp aduersite
Fals fortune tourneth as doth a bal

In hyre trust haue thou no sikernesse at al
Thy reuelous play turneth Whilom to grame
For the ende is Woo that beganne that game

Cum dubia et fragilis sit nobis vita tributa

In mortem alterius spem tu tibi ponere noli

Our brotel lyf is here so ful of doute

That in ferrey surete no Wight may stonde

So sodenly crepen the foules oute

Al aboute this Worldz in euery londe

Of yonge and oldz for euery Wight is bende

To deth therefore set not thyn affiance

In deth of him þ may the furuyue parchance

Epigynny munus cum det tibi pauper amicus

Accipito placide plene laudare memorto

A litel yeste geuen With goodz outet

Of thy frendz that lyuith in pouerte

With right good chere suche yeste take : sent

Supposyng ay that as goodz Wille hath be

Andz more than many men that richer be

Peysse not the yeste ne ponde not the pryse

Thentent is goodz & that shal the suffice

Infantem nudum cum te natura creauit

Maupertatis onus pacienter ferre memorto

Sith nature that is thy first noxice
Hath brought the bider al naked? & bare
Thaugh thou neuer can richesse accomplise
But thou art holde alwey in pouertis snare
Yet no force make neuer to moche care
Take paciently pouerte for the best
Riches is not of nature but of erth encrest
Ne timeas illam que vite est vltima finis
Qui mortem metuit qd? viuit perdit idipm
Thaugh deth be the fyn of euery creature
And no Wight on lyue shal from hym escape
Yet drede not deth With ouer lesy cure
To lyue on erth It is but a Jape
Yf thou shalt alwey after deth so gape
Thinke wele to dye but moesye thy thought
Or ellis to lyue auayleth the right noght
Si tibi pro meritis nemo respondet amicus
Placare deū noli sed teipse coherce
For thy desert yf no frend? thanke the
I mene Whan thou hast don thy force & payne
To other folkes frendly for to be
Yf they can not gramercy to the sayne
Withdraue thyn hand? & so thy self refrayne

Blame not thy god for thaire vnfreddinesse
But for suche men do after ward the lesse
Ne tibi quid desit quesitis vtere parce
Ut que quod est serues semper tibi desse puta
Sith no richeman that leuith any where
Yf he consume his goodes al and waste
But that puerite shal greue sore and dre
Therefore my child suche goodes as thou haste
Let not to sone oute of thy hand beaste
Leest than thy good hereafter wol the fayle
Hold that thou hast It may the este auayle
Quod prestare potes ne bis promiseris vlli
Ne sis lentofus dum vis bonus esse videri
Behote no man a thing to lene hym tyme
And fayle hym oones that is but vilanye
Yf thou may lene do it in frendly wyse
Suche cheuissance a frend both to be wyse
Of thy good dedes clamoure thou not ne cpe
Be not byndy ner of wordes breme
Yf a good man thou liste appere and seme
Qui similat verbis nec corde est fidus amicus
Tu quoq fac simi'e sic ars deludatur arte
And yf thou fynde the sone of doublenesse

The fals dissimilour yf thou espye
With printed? Wordes & hert ful of falsnesse
Thou maist in no wyse better bleve his ye
Than to serue hym With his owne trecherye
With Wordes sayre & frendly to departe
Mene thou the same & art begyle by arte
Moli homines blando minium sermone probare
Fistula dulce canit volucrem dū decipit aucupes
Proue y neuer a man by ouer printed? speche
For vnder sayre Wordes is ofte annexed? gyle
The Word? is gay but frendship is to seche
As it is sayd? such craft is in this yle
Yet some thinke yf Whan they thair t?ges file
The Whistelling? fouler maketh mery songe
And? so the briddes begyleth he amonge
Cum tibi sint nati nec opes tunc artibus illos
Instrue quo possint inopem defendere vitam
Whan so is that thou hast gotten children
Loke in her yongth than enforme hem soo
In som craft & mister that they may therein
Lerne to gete her lyuynge & to defende also
Her lyf Whiche euer nedeth & that they vnto
Vertu may attayne for he that no craft can

Ofte tyme nedeth e is in daunger of euery man
Quod Bile est aurum quod aurum Bile putabo
Sic tibi nec cupidus nec auarus nosceris Bili
Haue this conceit for it is ofte sene
Thingz dere bought ful ofte late of price
And thinges that litel of Valeu bene
In tyme comynge may to greet deth aryse
Remembre Wele this and it ay aduertise
Thus shalt y best y name of chyncherie fleme
And other men shal the no nygardo deme
Que culpare soles ea tu ne feceris ipse
Turpe est doctori cum culpa redarguit ipsum
Advise the Wele lete reason be thy guyde
Whan other folkes thou art aboute to blame
That suche default in the be not espyed
For yf it be than shalt thou haue the shame
A mannes honour suche thingz wol reclame
It is ful foule Whan a man wol teche
Yf that his dedes agensst his Wordes preche
Quod iustu est petito sed quod videatur honestu
Nam stultu est petere quod possit iure negari
Loke thy desir be groundedy of right
And than that it neuer traaverse honeste

For as often tymes as any Wordly Wight
Desireth more than right or equyte
Than may his request sone repledyd be
And it is cleped nyete and gret folye
To aske ofte that right Wol ay denye

Ignotum tibi tu noli preponere notis

Cognita iudicio constant incongnita casu

Change not a frend y thou knowest of old

For any newe in trust that thou shalt fynde

A better than he but in thy handes thou hold

Hy that hath ben to the frendly & kynde

For suche eschanges ben ofte ful blynde

The semeth thou knowest neuer a dele

To knowe a trusty frend It is casuele

Cum dubia in certis versetur vita periculis

Pro lucro tibi pone diem quicumqz laboras

Sith that mans lyf is ofte ful of miserie

Whilom in mirth and after in mischief

Now in the valey & now in the hille on hye

Now is man poure & after by riches in relief

The chynnyng morow bath ofte a stormy reue

To this p'ecpe take hede at the last ende

Haue sure for thy labour er that thou wende

Vincere cum possis interdum cede sodali
 Obsequio quin dulces retinentur amici
 Though thou may overcome & haue þ victoris
 Of thy frendz or felowe yet as forlore
 Refrayne thy self and be not haute or hye
 Your handes ful euyl do greue and dre
 Where easie softnesse frendes may conquere
 For by goodz dedes set in lowlinesse
 Men ben to geder knyt in frendlinesse
 Ne dubites cum magna petas impendere praua
 His etenim rebus coniungit gracia caros
 The limytour that visiteth the Wyues
 No Wyse ynogh of hym a man may lere
 To geue nelles pymes girdles & knyues
 The craft is good thus doth the Wyse freere
 Geueth thingys smale for thingys that ben dre
 If thou receyue euer geue þ sumwhat a geyn
 And that wol ay norisse loue in certen
 Item inferre caue cū quo tibi gracia iuncta est
 Ira odium generat concordia nutrit amorem
 Toyle not ne stryue With him þ is thy frend
 Be Ware of that make neuer thy frend thy fo
 A toylous mā may frendship breke & bond

Thyse barabours that ben misfeuled so
Interupte hem self & Drappen in moche wo
For Wilked Wrath engendreth but hate
Where as good accord norisse leue algate
Seruour ob culpam am te dolor vrgit in iram
Ipse tibi moderate tuis vt parcere possis
Whan thy seruant thou takest in defaute
Thaugh he can not his negligence excuse
Yet in thyn Ite make not to fers a saute
But With thy male talent take treuse
So shalt thou finde ease this fet yf thou vse
Kau'e thy passion andy ay by suche mesure
That thou saue hem that ben vnder thy cure
Quem superare potes interdum vince ferendo
Maxima etenim morum semper paciencia virtus
Sufferance doth ease Was seyde longe a goo
Suffre thou andy haue al thyn entent
Thaugh al thou maist ouer yet do y not soo
Conquere by sufferance andy be pacient
But for to folowe cruelte neuer consent
For it is c'eped a vertu With excellence
A Wight to lyue in humble paciencie
Conserua potius que sunt iam parata labore

11
Cum labor in dampno crescit mortalis egestas
Be not to skant ner be not to prodigal
Cōserue thy thinges gotten With trew labour
It is ful sayre to be called? liberal
But ay eschewe wast and? be no surfetour
Consume not al thy tresour in oon hour
Whan of thy labour riseth noon auayle
Nedes pouerte must the in hast assayle
Dapsilis interdum notis caris et amicis
Cum fueris felix semper tibi primus esto
Be thou not like senola for he wold? ete
With euery man and? at his fest hym fede
But neuer no man might taste of his mete
Ner no wight to him come but he to al mē pede
Be fre of thy mete but loke that larges lede
The no fether than thou may easly ateyne
Be euer thyn owne frēd thus aton scith certē
Take hede sire and? see holbe holsumly this clerk
Entretich men With vertuose doctrine
The first part of this compendious Werk
In worship holbe they shul ful clevely shyne
Gydyng? to reuelbe streight as a lyne
Whos preceptis to obserue yf that ye liste

And to his conseil your hertis to enclpne
Right in your age ful Wele It shal be Wiste
The vertuous fourme þ men shul forth conuey
So in this lyf as bridel doth a best
That may do not erre here in this pilous Wey
Stablisthynge hym as doth a stedfast arest
And as siker guydes that men Worthiest
Mannes luyng here to set in gouernance
This sage Cathon putteth in remembrance

• Incipit secundus liber •

t Elluris si forte velis cognoscere cultus
Virgiliū legito qd si mage nosce laboras
Herbarum vires mater tibi carmina dicet
Yf thou lust my childen set thy hertly delyt
Of erth to knowe the tilth and the culture
And yf thou wilt be of knowleche parfit
Why sume is erable and sume eke pasture
Why sume is freshe lyke floures of picture
I conseille the to stude sadlye for a Whyle
In the laureat poete grete Virgile
Si Romana cupis et punica noscere bella

12
 Lucanū queras qui martis prelia dicit
 And thou haue desirous fresshe corage
 To here of romaynes noble Worthinesse
 Howe they benyquissed them of cartage
 And many other thurgh manly prowesse
 Than rede lucan ful wele can be expresse
 Who haue hym best in tolbne & also in feld
 And who did meruailes vnder martes sheld
 Si quis amare libet vel discere amare legendo
 Masenem petito sin autem cura tibi hec est
 And who that lust eke of louers for to rede
 And in what wyse hym self for to auance
 As in y craft naso can teche hym for to spede
 For sume loue songz . harp . pype and dance
 Sume in redingz & other thingz of pleasance
 Sume louny couertly eke & lust not be espiede
 And sum wol d beknowen thus writeth oure
 Ut sapiens viuas audi que discere possis
 Per que semotum vicijs deducatur anim
 But yet my les childz yf that in auenture
 Thin hert be geuen to no suche maner thingz
 Or that it be not vnto thy playfure
 That virgil maer lucan or naso doth bring

Yet that y may be wyse after in thy leynge
yf thou lust to me to geue audience
I shal shewe the doctrine of sapience
Ergo ades que sis sapientia disce legendo
Therefore my child come nere to me & lere
And I shal the shewe the verray treasure
Of sapience yf the lust to herken and lere
And ek how thou shalt in good estat endure
And lede thy lyf holy after goddis plesure
Therefore approche and lere this reding
To lere a man ay vertuous of leynge
Si potes ignotis eciam prodesse memento
Utilius est regno meritis adquirere amicos
There is no wight that ferther may reporte
Of thy good dedes than the stranger may
Make him ay good chere & shewe him disporte
And he shal with honour better y this no nay
for y vnknowen It prouffiteth sūtime tassel
frendes y now to haue It is a better thing
Than is frendles any man to be a kynge
Mitte arcana dei celum inquirere quid sis
Cum sis mortalis que sunt mortalia cura
Of goddis misterie & ek of his working

Make neuer my childr to fer inquirance
 It is folp any man to muse on suche thing
 Dispute thou neuer vpon thy goddes putuēce
 For al thing must be vnder his gouernāce
 And sith thou art man clad in mortalite
 Dispute thou of thing suche as mortall be
Enique metum leti nā stultū est tempore i auā
Qui mortem metuit amittit gaudia vite
 The drede of deth that is inordinate
 I mene to drede it ay and neuer to cese
 Be Ware of that I conseyle the algate
 For this is trew as the gospel doutlese
 Who that dredith deth is alwey mirthlese
 Whan drede of deth any man so aggraggeth
 He wasteth his tyme & ay his lyf abreggeth
Iratus de re incerta contendere noli
Impedit ira animum ne possit cernere verum
 For thing that is vnto the vncertayne
 Whan thou art wroth loke neuer that þ seruie
 But first þ oughtest to knowe þ mater plaine
 For there is no persome oonly on erth a lye
 But that he onsailes is also blyue
 As lesy Wrath hath kindled hym on fyre

Ande than can be not deme the trowth for Ioe
Fac sumptum proptere cum res desiderat ipsa
Dandum ete m est aliqd cu tempus postulat a res
As tyme requireth so make ay thyn expense
Mesure thyn hande ek after the profetee
Of thinge of tyme ande also of the presence
So that thou spende nomore than nedith the
Ande that spende loke that thyn hert be free
A man sholdo do kost & make his spendinge
Cōsiderig þ tyme & ek of his costis rewarde
Quod minnū est fugito paruo gaudere memeto
Tuta magis puppis modico que flumine fertur
To moche is noght of any manere thinge
The mene is gooder ande moost comendable
That mā standeth surest here in this leuinge
With mene estat that holdeth hym greable
Plente ande pouerte to degre be not suffrable
For than is the ship in the see moost surest
What tyme the flode is moost demurest
Quod pudeat socios prudens celare memento
Ne plures culpent id quod tibi displicet omi
Vf þ knowe aught þ may turne in to shame
Kepe it secret ande for no thinge it be brye

14

Be neuer to kesy suche thing to proclame
 Or puplisse as thou knowest wol repye
 Make not almen to gauren on it and crye
 Lest ymen dāpne y to othyr folkys yn knowes
 For suche fals demers y maist finde y now
 Nolo putes prauos homines peccata lucrari
 Temporibus peccata latent et tempore patent
 If thou espye and see or perceiue a forfaiture
 And ek a shrewde of misgouernance
 Truste wele that sumtyme shal come an helure
 Whan for his dedes he shal suffre penance
 A curse dē askeeth wreche and vengeance
 Thagh Wikkednesse for y tyme he kept sece
 Yet atte last it wol discouered be
 Corporis exigui vires contempnere noli
 Consilio pollet cui vim natura negauit
 Thagh sumtyme nature hath ben vnkynde
 And geuyth a man to be of smale stature
 Yet remembre my child & haue in thy mynde
 That thou neuer dispyse that creature
 For god may sende hym fortune & bone bre
 And ofte they be With good consail alped
 To Whom nature hath grete strengthe dnyed

Quem scitis nō esse parem tibi tempore cede
Victorem a Victo superari sepe Videmus

Whan thy hap is to traaverse and? haue a do
With hym that is noght egal to thy myght
Thyn bettermest powder shalbe not suche vnto
Lest that esteemes he haue the in like plight
For it is often seen in batayl and? in fight
Fortune changeth ofte Withyn oon our
And? he is scomfited? that was erst Victour
Aduersus notum noli contendere Verbis

His minimis Verbis interdū maxima crescit
Of brondes smale he made fires grete
Withdrale the brondes the fire shal decrese
Ageyn the hyer loke thou not plete
With Wordes fele for Wordes disorde thy perse
The man is wyse than any of Wordes cese
For this is as verily soth as god? gaf lyf
That Wordes smale breeden ful moche stryf

Quod deus intendit noli perquirere sorte

Quod statuit de te sine te deliberat ipse

Dele not With magike ner With forcerie
In goddes hand? is al fortune and? fate
Be not aboute to calke by descenpe

Whether thou be miserable or fortunate
Lette godd a lene in hym is al thyng estate
For what hym lust of the to purpose
Withoute[n] the he can ful wele dispose
Inuidiam nimio cultu vitare memento
Que si non ledat tamen hanc sufferre molestum
Beware ay of enuye With tatches falle
Withyn thyng hert loke ay that she ne rest
For it is oon of the chief paynes of helle
Whan she sojourneth within a man is brest
Than burneth fery in hyre owne nest
And than she may noon othir man mischeue
Yet ethna cesith not hyre self to greue
Esto forti animo cum sis dampnatus inique
Nemo diu gaudet qui iudice vincit iniquo
Enforce thyng hert With manly suffrance
Thaugh that fals Jugement a geyn the pcede
Be thou not a basshed in word ne cōtenaunce
For ofte times y fals oppssour may reule & lede
The labe but truste me wele Withoute[n] dede
Longe to reioyse achewe he may nat
Whiche by manes vntrewbe his goodis so gat
Nec te collaudes nec te cul pueris ipse

Hoc faciunt stulti quos gloria sepat inanis
Thy self also loke thou not pryse
Ner dyspryse but let thou other men alone
Alwey after prudence thy wordes pryse
For thy auant honour shalt thou gete none
But haue a moke as sone as thou art gone
A man to pryse hym self as seith the scole
Or dyspryse moche is token of a fole

Actis preterite noli maledicta referre
Post inimicias iram meminisse malorū est
Wrath of old þy shold be kept oute of mynde
Be thou not aboute to make it on lyue
But the enuyous hath a tache of kynde
Suche malice my child? loke þy neuer reuyue
For suche malice of old Wrath maketh a striue
And? Who remembreth of old enemyte
A Wilked? man forsoth is he

Utere quesitis modice cum sumptus habundat
Labitur epiguo quod partum est tempore longo
Whan it is tyme of cost and? grete expense
Behar of wast and? spende ay by mesure
Who that to kepe or spende hath no differense
Maketh his goodes may not longe endure

For the old prouerbe saith mesure is treſure
Remembre þ some thy goodes may ſlip away
That biſore were gotten in many a ſondry day

*Incipiens eſto cum tempus poſtulat aut res
Stulticia ſimulare loco prudentia ſumma eſt*

It is no Wiſedam a man alwey to be ſage
But ſumtyme to be nyte and ſeyne ſolye
Who that hath this ſet ſhal fynde auantage

Whan tyme and thing deſireth that eſpye

And than diſſimile that is gret pollecey

For ſumtyme to be vnwyſe by apparenc

Among the wyſe is cleped hys prudent

Luxuriam fugito ſimul et vitare memento

Crimes auaricie nam ſunt contraria ſane

The filthy fleſſhe meynyn the beſial

That fighteth ay a geyn the ſoule withyn

By force of hyre actiſement liberal

Eſche we my child & kepe the from hyre geyn

That art and grace ben ſet ful fer a twayn

And eſche we ay of auarice þ Wilked ſame

Thyſe two they ben that cauſen eynl name

Moli tu quedam referenti credere ſemper

Epigua e tribueda fides qz mul ti multa loqu tur

1822
Belue þ not lightly in aury Wightis salbe
For sume reporten thingz al oðer wyse
Than it was euer thought or don or salbe
And some haue it also of custume & of guise
To fede folk with flatering and lyes
Therfore geue litel trust to suche feire speking
For many folkes speke vntrewe thingz

Quod potu potas ignoscere tu tibi noli

Nam nullū crimen vni sed culpa bidentis

Wf thou surfete in drink forgete þ not that
Aduise the Wel este thou come not in þ snare
Withdraue thyn hād fede not thy throte to fat
Drinke that suffiseth the & ell loke thou spare
To moche drink maketh men of Wit ful bare
And yet the Wyne therof is not to blame
To blame is the drinker þ makith hym lame

Consilium archani tacito committe sodali

Corporis auxilium medico committe fideli

To thy trusty frend that is secret to the
Shewe thy conseyl and thy nede helpe
For a trusty frend is the chest of priuite
But it is gret hap suche frendes to espye
Ere oute oon among al a compaigne

17
And of thy body betake thou at the care
Vnto suche a leche that is trusty and sure
Sucessus indignos noli tu ferre molestus
Indulget fortuna malis ut ledere possit
With thy self a greue the neuer to sore
Thaugh thing a mye sumtyme betyde
Dis may the not in lesy Wyse therfore
For thyn auenture nedes thou must abyde
Fortune may not alwey be on thy syde
With harmes to greue ay in wayte lity she
To ref men Welth honoure and prosperyte
Prospice qui veniunt hos casus esse ferendos
Nam leuius ledit quicquid prudimus ante
In thyr owne self compace aboute ay before
Thing to perceyue that after Wol fal
It noieth not ner greneth not half so sore
That is a fore seen as othe thing shal
Sodein chaunces discasith moost of al
It hurteth ay lesse and is in better plight
Where a man prudently can haue a fore sight
Rebus in aduersis animu submittere noli
Spem retinere spes vna aī nō morte relinquit
Whan diuers thinges traaverse thyn entent

And thou art Wrappedy in aduersite
For Wanhope loke thou be not lost ne shent
Lete neuer dispaire thy Wit bereue the
But abyde the tyme that better shal be
Hope is she that shal make the a seth
Hope leueth not a man til man leue y breath

*Rem tibi quā noscis aptam dimittere noli
Fronte capillata post hec occasio calua*

Whan men profre than is tyme to retyne
Take ay thynge Whyle they ben in season
Many profre now that after Wol refreme
For y is plente now Wol afterwarde be geson
Therefore take ay in time for so cōscileth reson
For the halled led was sumtyme ful of heris
Whiche is now bare withoute rasure or shenis
*Quod sequitur specta qd imminet ante videto
Illum imitare deum qui partē spectat vtramq;*
Provide thy self and haue deliberance
By likly coniecture What Way setyde
Aduertise my child in thy remembrance
Afore and after aboute on euery spde
Folowbe that god Wol & lete him be thy guyde
Whiche hath al thing oonly in his gouernemēt

18
Fortune feture & pouste & al that is present
Forcior ut valeas interdū parciōr esto
Pauci sollicitati debentur plura saluti

It is a tache of a deuouryng honde
To receyue superfluyte and do eke excesse
Tyl his receyt ageyn from hym rebonde
Contente thy nature & fle ay from gredynesse
Foule lustes ay kept vnder fote & repress
Fede not thy lust with al that she wol craue
Of that in helth the liste thy lyp to haue
Sic tibi precipue qd̃ primū est cura salutis
Tempora ne culpes cum sint tibi causa doloris
Take good hede eke of thyn owne estate
To reule thy body wele with good diete
In tyme but loke thou be not at debate
Thurgh thyn owne reule and surfete
Thaugh sickness & sorowe haue yee y an hēte
The tyme is good & no diesmale ther is
But yf men it make for that they don a mys
Somnia ne curas nā mens humana qd̃ optat
Dum vigilat sperat p̃ sompnum cernit idipm
Drede thou no dreames so seith deutronomye
For ofte they be caused of diuers complexion

Som of ymaginacōns & many a nice fāte sie
For dremes ben ofte deceit and fals illusion
Or ellis of blode or of superflue replecion
Whan they be wakynge they desyre & thinke
Upon that thing they dreme Whan they wimke
Iudicium populi nūquam contempseris Vnus
Ne nulli placeas dū his contempnere multos
Whan that a multitude hath yow a decree
Or concluded ought a gem thyn entent
Trauerse yet neuer a yemst the comente
For yf thou do thou shalt be sore hent
Dispyse y not a loone the peoples Jugement
In auenture thou please of hem not oon
Whiles thou woldest trauerse hem euerichon
Misteth a While What al thysse maters mene
Abideth sire and goo no further yet
For to rede theym sayleth not a bene
To no man but be the kernal ynknēt
Therfore al your hert & al your mynde vnsket
And loke What lieth vnder y hoistous rynde
And I dar sey of Wisdā and of Wit
Plente and fopson therein shal ye fynde
Refresseth your spirites With this holsom diete

19
That fostereth vertues and kepeth a lye
To your persone me thinketh ful mete
For to receyue suche a ioyful nutretyf
Whiche your estat shal ay preserue in lyf
In greet honour & kepe you from noyance
Oute of the daunger of vices infectyf
Yf ye Wirthe after this ordenance
And in special loke that your dede
May here trew Witnesse and testifie
The maters that ye behold and rede
Loke hem with your hert as wel as with your eye
And than dar I say sumwhat ye shal espye
In this Werk that shal meue your corage
Wherfore your hert your eye & your sprite applie
Your self ay to reule after thys dedes sage

+ Incipit liber tercius.

h Oc quicūq; bellis carmen cognoscere lector
Hec p̄cepta feres que sunt g̃tissima vite
Loo what wight that lusteth him for to rede
In this my diete sumwhat shal he fynde
Wherwith he may his soule foster and fede

C.3

With vertue and; it from vices vnbond
Come nere my child; therfore & haue in mynde
Suche doctrine in thyn hert to bere a wey & leue
As to thy self here after shal be les & deue
Instrue preceptis animum ne discere cesses
Nā sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis ymago
Mannes soule resembleth a newe plain table
In whiche yet apperith to sight no picture
The philisophre saith withouten fable
Right so is mānes soule but a dedly figure
Vnto the tyme she be reclaimed; With y^e lure
Of doctrine and; so gete hir a good; habit
To be expert in cunnyng; science & prouffit
Interpone tuis interdum gaudia curis
Vt possis animo quēuis sufferre laborem
Who that lacketh rest may no while endure
Therfore among; take ease and; disport
Delyte the neuer in gret besynesse and; cure
But that whilom thou maist also resort
To playes recreacions & al other comfort
Than shalt thou better labour atte longe
Whan thou hast mirth thy besynesse amonge

Cum recte Ducas ne aures Verba malore
Arbitri nostri no est qd? quasq? loquatur
If thou lyue iustly ay kepe Sp right
Neuer declining for mede lurre drede or fauour
Treuli than stādest thou i a fulholse m plight
Thaugh me maligne y With Wordes of rigour
If thou lyue thus thy good? lif is thy t ur
We may not let the people to gaure & crye
But do yet Wele thaugh they missey or lye

Productus testis saluo tamen ante pudore

Quātuncumq? potes celato cimen amia

Sone yf thou be called? the soth to testifre
Euermore sauyng? thy Worship & honeste
Thy frendes trespass be not abute to be lrye
Where as no shame thereof may growbe to the
This requireth ay good? friendship parde
In Wele and? the trewe beneuolence

Getwix folkes is friendship in assistance

Sermones blandos blesos q? cauere memento

Simplicitas viri fama est fraus ficta loquendi

Make besy Wache kepe Wele thy soule algate
Beholde Wisely aboute & spyre thy couert trayne
Whan that fals fauel knocketh at thy gate

He mayneth gile though outward he sayne
For he can anoynte both thy eyes & wayne
With the oyle of playfance in ful greet foison
But yet vnder ykepe y wele from this poison
Segnitatem fugito que vite ignavia fertur
Nā cum animus languet consumit merca corp⁹
Slouth & Moggard⁹ and⁹ dul Jaelnesse
And⁹ lachesse that causeth to be negligent
Enforce y ay to escheue with al thy besinesse
For Jael soule maketh thy body shent
Treuly ther is in erth no gretter argument
For to conclude thy mortal body vnapte
Than the soule in Jaelnes to be wrapte
Comoda multa feras sin autē spreueris illud
Non me scriptorem sed te neglexeris ipse
Enprunte my teching⁹ in thy soule stedfast
And⁹ ful proffitable thou shalt it fynde
For sake it not ner fro thy hert it caste
For yf that thou exclude oute of thy mynde
This lesson thou art ful barren and⁹ blynde
From vertues and⁹ therefore wite not me
Sithen the default my sone is than in the
Alterius dictum vel factum ne carperis unquā

21
Exemplo simili ne te decideat alter

It is ful hard to please euery Wight
Displease y of no manere dedes uer thm lak
Mer thaire Wordes neither for euen so right
As thou displeased thm behynde thy bak
Right so Wol men make the a mol & knak
For the contrarve though men had it sworn
The scórner shal be guer doned ay With scorn

Quod tibi fors dedit tabulis suprema notato

Augendo serua ne sis quem fama sequatur

Whan thy last sort that men callen fate
Is good and pleasant after thyn intent
This mene I lo Whan thou art fortunate
Recorde al thy goodes that god hath the sent
And suffre hem not relesly to be spent
For than of a Wastour thou shalt haue y name
For gret riot Wol cause thy feble fame

Cum tibi diuicie superant in fine senectute

Munificus facito diuitas non parca amica

Into gret age What tyme y thou art crept
And hast richesse prosperite & gret habundance
Be liberal than of y goodes y a fore y hast kept
Thinke wele thou hast ynogh and suffisance

Lette neuer thy goodz of the haue gouernance
But gouerne & departe it ay With thy frendz
for Whan þy gost hens it may not With þy Word

Utile consilium dominus ne despice serui

Mullius sensum si pdest contempseris Inquam

Grace is pouen to man in many sondry Wyse

Some haue Wisedam & some haue eloquence

The poure folkes also some tyme be ful Wyse

A seruāt sumtyme may be ek of gret sapience

Thaugh al be he had in litel reuerence

Reuerde his Wit yf it be Worth the Whyle

For vertu is hid under many an habit vile

Rebus et in sensu si non est quod fuit ante

Fac diuas contentus eo qd tempora present

This Worlde's Welth ebbyng & flowyng ay

At no certeyn is like as Bankle aprile

Thaugh thou haue losse þy shalt not þy dis may

Be content With that thou hast for the Whyle

Some mā ther is þy hath neither crosse ne pile

Now in his Ward & yet right goodz auenture

As him ful negh no mā may knowe his dre

Oporem fuge ne ducas sub nomine doli

Nec retinere felis si cepit esse molesta

Wedde not a Wyf for hire inheritaunce
 For she wol cast it often in thy berde
 And yf she be noyant and ful of greuance
 Constraine hyr neuer to abyde in thy yerde
 Of chastisement It is a cursed werde
 To kepe suche oon that wol ay a twyte
 For he is at ease that of suche oon is quyte
 Multorum disce exemplo que facta sequaris
 Que fugias Vita nobis est aliena magistra
 Of other men thou shalt thy myrrour make
 To fourme y to that that moost men appreue
 What thou shalt do & What thou shalt forsake
 A better fet maist thou not contraine
 Than to other men is dedes reue
 In al that pertaineth to thy techynge
 Make of other men a reule of thy leynge
 Quod potes id tempta operis ne pondere pressus
 Succumbat labor et frustra temptata relinquas
 Accepte no thing y surmounteth thy myght
 Mer that to finishe thou maist not achue
 For than stādest thou foule in thyn owne sight
 ouer his puer What man that lusteth meue
 With shame his Werke must nedys take leue

It is folp a man fuche Werkes to begynne
Whiche to perfourme is polber is to thynne
Quod nosci factum non recte noli filere
Ne videare malos imitari kelle tacendo
Lalbe prefumeth that What man kepith stille
The crime of oon that hath doon gret offence
And? discoueryd? hit not he is than Ille
As the criminous for keepyn? of his fcience
Therefore my fone brynge it in to audience
That thou perceyueft not Wele don is
Lest for filence men deme of the a mys
Iudicis auxilium sub iniqua lege rogato
Ipse etem leges capiunt vt Iure regantur
Whan the lalbe is strait and? rigorous
Entrete ay the Iugge to do the fauour
Enclinyng hym for to be gracious
For an egal Iugge may thy cause ay fcoure
And? yet the lalbe shal be his gouernour
Whiche oweth fumsyme to modefpe
As in cas he may a point asppe
Quod merito pateris patienter ferre memento
Cumq; reus tibi sis ipsum te iudice dampna
What peyne thou suffrest for thy desert

23
Receyue it ay Wel in gree and pacience
Al though thy trespass be prync and couert
Yet whan thou weyes it in thyn aduertence
That thou art blemished in thy conscience
With in thy self make thou an arbitrement
Dempnyng thy self in thyn owne Iuggemēt
Multa legas facito plectis plege multa
Nam miranda canūt sed non credenda poete
Mispende thou no tyme neuer for lachesse
But whilom rede in bookes old and wyse
Rede and reporte eke With gret attentifnesse
By redyng to cunnyng a man may ryse
Than rede my sone and cunnyng accomplise
Thyse poetes Write y thing of gret meruayle
And eke of smale credēce ofte this is no fail
Inter conuiuias fac sis sermone modestus
Ne dicare loquax dum vis Urbanus haberi
Euermore amonge frendes sittynge atte fest
Ke thou curteys & demaure of thy langage
Who y speleth moost is not counted wysest
For of fleshe & bone nature hath made a cage
The tonge to kepe that she be not outrage
Than yf thou wil be preferred of nature

Refrayne thy tonge With al thy besy cure
Coniugis irate noli tu Verba timere
Ala lacrimas struit insidias dū femina plorat
Some Women Wepen of pure feminite
Whan other Wyse they can not thaire intent
Acheue but yet be War of suche nyce pyte
Thy manly reason for that be not blent
For suche Weping thy hert aught neuer relent
Some Women of kynde be euer Wepyng
And vnder that they can bothe pryke & styng
Vtere quesitis sed ne videaris abuti
Qui sua cōsumūt cum deest aliena sequuntur
Whan thou hast gotten to thy Worship vse
What auayleth richesse With oute honour
To spende ay good & Worship to refuse
Is no point of proffit ner of socour
Therefore yf thou hast gotten With tress labour
Consume not in mysuse lest thou do a mys
Ofte be nedith of other that Wasted hath his
Fac tibi p penis mortem non esse timendam
Que bona si nō est finis tamen illa bonoz
Enprinte my child ay hertly in thy mynde
That thou be not of deth so fore a drad

Whiche shal the from Brechednesse vnbrynde
 Where in thy lif so longe thou hast forth lade
 A lyf pauenture to god and man ful lade
 The Whiche though she be not to al pffitable
 Yet she maketh an end both of lade & able
 Poris linguam si frugi est ferre memento
 Namq; malum nil velle pati nec posse taceri
 Thy Wyues Wordes thou suffre & take in gre
 Whan it auayleth for betyde it may
 Ful ofte that of grete prudence is she
 And moost to be allowed this is no nay
 Suffre hyre than and hyre concept assay
 For it is hard Whan thou can not be styll
 Mer yet to suffre hire thou can eke haue Wille
 Dilige nō egra caros pietate parentes
 Nec matrē offendas dū viuis bonū esse parenti
 Goodes that ben geuen the of nature
 They come to the of thy progenitours
 Therefore my child With al thy force & cure
 Loke thou loue hem & cherisse at al hours
 For they fostre þ & kept i youth from shours
 Thy moder my dere child yet in especial
 Yet thou do wele neuer offende at al

Reforte reforte and? hiderbard? the releue
My maistre now here is an holsome eyre
For your auayle to this place retreue
Where as for moralite sprynging floures feire
And? sote ful pleasantly to the repyre
Gadre of hem and? make a chaplet or a gay
And? rest y a While here right in this herbere
Beholde Wele & see What thing is to your pay

• Incipit liber quartus.

I Carrā quicumq; cupis deducere vitam
Nec vicijs herere aīn que moribus obsunt
What wight that list to lyue in seker nesse
His lyf & his soule to kepe from inuymbrance
Of vices the Whiche & good? the bes expresse
Be ay at stryf come nere & geue attendance
Thyse preceptis kepe Wele in remembrance
Enroll'ng hem & pryncing in your mynde
And? so to lyue the meres shal ye fynde
Despice diuicias si vis animo esse beatus
Quas qui suscipiunt mēdicant semp auari
The soule talent of riches my child? escheW

25
 And resemble thou neuer greedy tantalus
 Whos etyl in hunger is alwey newbe
 Amonge the feyre apples delicious
 no Water swete quenchith his thrust right thus
 To vilayns Walolbe of couetyse
 Loo al this Worldz noght can ner suffyse
 Comoda nature nullo tibi tempore deerunt
 Si contentus es fueris qd postulat vsus
 With resonable fedynge be thou content
 As in diete a man sholdz neuer ouer charge
 Him self for With surfet many men ben shent
 For thayre receptes ben to grete andz large
 Men seen al day that litel bote or large
 Wol drenchen a noon whan it is ouer freight
 Chrisshe euer nature With none ouer weight
 Cum sis inuitus nec rem ratione gubernas
 Noli fortunam que non est dicere causam
 Of thy thyngz the happe to mys gouerne
 Withoute reason or any prouidence
 Than myn olone childe of me this lesson lerne
 Say not it Was by fortune suche expence
 To make but Wite it thyng olone negligence
 For fortune may neuer compelle the

Thy good to spende but at thy liberte
Dilige denarium sed parce dilige formam
Quia nemo sanctus nec honestus capit habere
Loue thou the peny as for thy cheuisance
Not for the quoyne to horde it vpon hepe
For of the prince Was made the ordonance
Not for in cofres It shold be stille & sepe
But þ it shold ay stee among y people & lepe
In their eschange & Who that kepith it Ime
As for the fourme is ay subget to syme
Cum fueris locuples corpus curare memento
Eger diues habet nūmos s non habet ipsum
Whan thou hast plente and art peumial
I mene Whan thou hast grete suffisance
Of money forson and help but smal
Than spende thy money & thy self auance
Kepe neuer the copre and lye in greuance
The fike hath siluer in ful gret excesse
But of hym self he hath no sikernesse
Verba cum tuleris discens aliquando magistri
Fer patris imperium cum verbis exit in iram
Thaugh sumtime y suffice the gret sharpnes
Of betyng yet ay thy maistres chastisemēt

26
 Take Wele in gre With humble lowlines
 Sith it is don but al in good entent
 In cause to lerne and Wisedam for to hent
 Al thought his Wordes folwe ful of Ire
 Yet suffre thou the talent of that fyre
 Res age que pfunt rursus Vitare memento
 In quibus error mest nec spes est certa laboris
 Also my child thou shalt the ay occuppe
 To Wike thyng that ben proffyttable
 But loke thou neuer thy Wittes applye
 To thynges that may not be auaylable
 To kepe a thyng that is not proffyttable
 By Wit or strengthe It is gret errour
 Dispayred hope is the end of suche labour
 Quod donare potes gratis concede roganti
 Nam recte fecisse bonis in parte lucrosum est
 Whan y shalt yeue than yeue in frendly Wyse
 Frendly contente thou a prayer or a request
 For thyng yeuen by tyme is yeuen tWyse
 Suche gladsome chere makith yestes richest
 Who that yeueth gladly & sone yeueth is best
 Loo no thyng better may thyng conquer
 Than a man to lene that he may forebere

Quod tibi suspectū est cōfestim discute quid sit
Namq; solent primo que sunt neglecta nocere

Whan vpon a thing thou hast a coniecture

As in thy concept holdyng in suspect

To discoure that a noon do thy care

For at the first Whan suche thing is reiect

That shold selbe after is easy to correct

A thing that at the first is nought set by

Is often tymes sene to greue finally

Cum te detineat Veneris dampnosa Voluptas

Indulgeat gula noli que Ventrīs amica est

And Whan thou art disposed inwarde

To Venus actes than expresse thy corage

Suffre not thy flesshe than to luste

For grete diete maketh thy flesshe outrage

Where as mesure might causen it to aswage

And gloteny is cleped the chief prometrice

Redmyng the flesshe ay to Wantonnesse & Vice

Cum tibi pponas animalia cuncta timere

Unū precipue hominem plus esse timendum

The rampant Lyon and the tigre felle

The Iovus bore the hounde ful of enye

and many moo bestis than here nedith to te

Men dreden ful fore and eke thaire tyrannye
 And wele they do but yet oon best espye
 That is a fore al other moost especial
 Man is the best that thou moost drede shal
 Cum tibi prevalide fuerint in corpore vires
 Hac sapias atq sic tu poteris vir fortis haberi
 The vertue that is called fortitude
 Stondeth al in the strengthe bodely
 As to be curous mighty stronge and rude
 But in the soule It must be sikerly
 Neuertheles if thou wilt thy soule fortespye
 And hym withyn a queynite With sapience
 Treuly than shalt thou be stronge in existence
 Auxilium a notis petito si forte laboras
 Nec quisq melior medicus quā fidus amicus
 What thing in erth y thou shalt take on bonde
 And thy support shal be in frendlinesse
 No strange wight on liue so negh y wel stode
 as thy knowen frend my chil'd this is expresse
 Of the stranger hast thou no sikernesse
 For whan al other ben for to seche
 The feithful knowen frēd can best be thy leche
 Cum sis ipse nocens moritur aut victima p te

Stulticia est in mortem alterius sperare salutem

The deeth of bestes that ben irreforable

As by custume and right of sacrifice

To purge the is no seth greable

Truste not also to gete thy repyse

For they that trusten so ben ful vnwyse

By deeth of bestes god wol not quemed be

And a man a bide stille in his iniquyte

Curi tibi vel sociū vel fidum queris amicum

Non tibi fortuna est hōis sed vita petenda

Whan thou woldest chese a frend for trustnesse

Of his fortune make noon inquirance

For fortune is moder of changeablenesse

But aske of his dedes and his gouernance

For that is proued of gretter suffisance

Than be of fortune that is casuelle

For lyf of man his fortune doth excell

Utere quesitis opibus fuge nomen auari

Quid tibi diuicie p̄sunt si pauper habundas

We bele the riches that thou hast of quest

Of auarice the wylked same escheue

Let not thy good lyf be stopped in thy chest

Kepp not thy tresour & stuf ay closed in mede

Suche old tresour wol make thy shame newe
What profiteth plente and gret treasure
And in pouerte a breche alwey to endure
Si famam seruare cupis dū uiuis honestam
Hac fugias aīd que sunt mala gaudia vite
My sone yf thou desire to reioyse thy fame
In honeste whyle thou lyeuest here
Eschewe thingis that may causen thy shame
And lichorous lustes must be leyde on here
And eke thingis fele that ful ioyous appere
Thy worldes ioye is ofte ful defectyf
Be war of ioye that lettith thy good lyf
Cum sapias aīd noli irridere senectam
Nā quocūq; sene puerilis sensus in illo est
And as my child assay and aduertys
That thou neuer shorne y gret stouping age
Thy elder my sone for no thing thou dispise
Thaugh al in thaire wittes they be not so sage
As in thaire yonth sith age is outrage
Whan age cometh this is soth certayn
A man begynneth than to be a child again
Disce aliquid nā cum subito fortuna recedit
Res remanet vitam q; hoīs nō deserit unquā

Enforce thy wittes sumwhat for to leue
Acquinte the with cunnyng for it is sure
Of fortune change and pouerte appere
Who that is cunnyng is likly to recure
Cunnyng and craft remayne euer & endure
And by theyn a man may sone releue
Whan fortune hath cast hym to myscheue
*Prospicito cuncta tacitus quod quisq; loquatur
Sermo hominum mores celat et indicat idem*
Be stille in seilence with good aduysidnesse
Tarye my child til othir haue sayde
So shalt y lerne sumwhat of stedfastnesse
Lette neuer thy tonge sodenly be vnteyde
For that might the of hastinesse abreyde
By man is word his maner wol be shewde
By word eke is knowen y wyse from y lewde
*Exerce studium quauis perreperis artem
De cura ingemid sic et manus adiuvat os*
Thaugh of cunnyng thou haue ful greet
Enforce the ay my child yet to lerne more
The soule it is that must be thy receyt
Replenisse here with vertues trefour & store
Se maketh maiestie vse y ay cunnyng therfore

Use helpe th art and cure helpe th wit
Than use and cure to gedre must be knit
Multum venturi ne cures tempora fati
Nō metuit mortem qui scit contempnere vitam
The body from y soule shal haue disseuerance
Deth is the ende comune of euery wight
Charge not therfore of deth is chance
The tribut of deth must thou pay of right
But yet of deth shalt thou sit but light
Yf by this lyf thou set right noght expresse
The whiche is ay ful of wo & wretchednesse
Disce sed a doctis imitator ipse docto
Propaganda est etm rerum doctrina bonarum
Lerne ay of the wyse & teche the vncynnyng
For it is vertue & at al tyme comendable
To encrese doctrine thurgh suche comenyng
It is ek alwey a dede of godd charitable
Bothe to lerne & to teche It is ful greable
Doctrine helpe th vertue euermore on lyue
Whiche ne were doct ne sone from vs wolde stue
Hoc bibe qd possis si tu vis viuere sanus
Morbi causa mali namqz est quecumqz relictas
Drinke not to muche more than y may bere

Reule wele ay thy self With þe bridel of mesure
To moche drinke wol thy body nor þe deere
For surfet is euermore of helth vnure
And mesure maketh men in helth endure
What man is reuled after lustes vile
In good estat he may abyde no while
Laudaris quodcumq; palam quodcumq; pbaris
Hoc vide ne rursus leuitatis crimine dampnis
And þf hyt hap the my child in audience
A thing to prayse bebar þ thou not blame
Este agein right the same in presence
þf thou dyspreyse comende not eke the same
Of suche trauers must nedis ryse shame
To preyse now and este to blame expres
It is a signe of gret vnstedfastnes
Tranquillis rebus que sunt aduersa caueto
Rursus in aduersis melius sperare memento
Whan þ liuest here right at thyn owne ease
In al thy hertis ioye rest and prosperite
Thinke yet parat that psperte may lese
For worldly welth standeth neuer in sikerte
And as sone whan pouerte or aduersite
Assauteþ þ yet falle thou neuer in dispaire

Thinke ay i thy self good fortune may repaire
 Discere nō cesses cura sapiencia crescit
 Rara datur longo prudentia temporis usu
 It is ful faire my childy to be prudent
 And wyse loke that thou lerne fast therfore
 To lerne ay my sone do thyng entent
 For by cure & besynesse Wisdomy is the more
 Wisdomy is she that may not be forbore
 The rare prudence that folkes nyce refuse
 Can neuer be hady but by processe and wyse
 Parce laudato nam quem tu sepe probaris
 Una dies qualis fuerit monstrabit amicus
 Beware also that thou neuer enhance
 In thy laude or preysing a wight to hye
 For thou maist haue cause este to disanance
 Thy fame but ay thy preysing modefy.
 For on a day thou shalt ful wele espye
 Whether he be frondy that frondly semyth
 For al be no frondes that men demyth
 Ne pudeat que nescieris te velle doceri
 Scire aliquand laus est culpa est nil discere velle
 Be not a shamedy also my childy to lere
 That thou canst not for it is but a teache

Of folp noght to desire doctrine to here
For Wele is him that to cūnyng may streche
For cūnyngles a man is but a Breche
Therefore to cūne moche it is right comendable
And eke noght to cūne it is moost repuable
Cum Senere et Bacho lis est et iuncta Voluptas
Quod iustū est animo complectere ꝛ fuge lites
Venus is ay redy to al hyre actes vile
Whan that Bachus hath hyre in largesse
Thurgh the tresour of hyre herte ꝛ feruent fyre
Therefore my childr thyn apetit thou repress
In Wyne herte do thou neuer to gret excess
Drinke nomore than for the soule is expedient
Eschebe strif ꝛ ay with mesure be content
Dimissos animo tacitos Vitare memento
Quo flumē est placidū forsan latet alior vnda
The solem stille mā ofte meneth fraude ꝛ gyle
Of suche a man eschebe ay the compayne
For the stille mā compasseth other Whyle
Withyn his decept ful shede and trecherie
In floodes stille is Water depe and hye
For often tymes betwde Unhappy chance
In streemes softe sempyng to thy pleasure

Cum tua fortuna rerum tibi displicet Vni
 Alterius specta quo sis discrimine prior

With thy fortune Whan thou art discontent
 And canst not take in gre thyne auenture
 Beholde aboute and fele in thyne aduise-mēt
 How they þ Whylom Were of goodes more sure
 Than thou and more likly in welth tendure
 Both for counte fauour and eke noblesse
 and yet sodenly they haue fall into wrechednesse
 Quod potes id tempta nam litus carpere remis
 Tucius est multo quā velum tendere in altum
 Attempte the thynge so as thou maist suffice
 passe neuer thy might here neuer to hve a sayle
 For there is perel yf that the streame a rype
 Certen my childen this is Withoute fayle
 The vessel smal is at ful gret auale
 Whan that With oore to longe le may a reche
 Whan the sayles hve ful ofte gon to wreche
 Contra hoīem iustum prave contendere noli
 Semper enim deus iniustas olascitur iras
 a gein y trew iust mā braule y neuer ne striue
 For Vnto god above that is gret displeasur
 Truste this trewly there is no mā here on liue

That to the iust man doth dre or greuance
But at the last godd Wol take vengeance
Therefore hereof it is reason ihe man to take
For y right Wyse mā of god is neuer forsake
Exceptis opibus noli merere dolendo

Sed gaude potius si te contingat habere
Of exorcion or of any misaventure
Haue plukked at the & made the thredbare
Of richesse yet do thou ay thy force and care
To be mery and eschebe thought and care
For flytterngh thought is a foule snare
Come not thern fortune is vinstable
After pouerte richesse is prepgnable

Est iactura grauis que sunt amittere dampnis
Sunt quedā que fere decet patienter amicum

It is harme thy goodes to for go
That ben in hand With force and violence
But yet my child thou must considere Who
And what he is that doth suche offence
Betwene frend and foo haue ay a difference
For in sume cas thou aught a frend forbere
And eke suffre hym though he noye & dre
Tempora longa tibi noli promittere vitz

Quocūq; ingrederis sequitur mors corporis Umbra

Be not sure that thou shalt lyue here longe

A Wight shal dye al be it that he be loth or les

And as y oldy so doth the yong eke amonge

Deth stelith ay on as doth a pryue thef

For a geyn deth men may fynde no relief

She is aboute ay to make a final divorse

And foloweth eche day y schadowe of thy corse

Thure deum placat vitulum siue crescat aratro

Nec credas placare deum dum cede litatur

Worshipe gody With all thy puyssance

With hert entier & swete smelliny ensence

Suche sacrifice is goody to his pleasance

Of the calues smale that neuer didy offence

Thaugh y hem sle the blede may not dispence

With y lete hem growbe & wyne in y plough

Thy trew hert ay to god is suffisace is y negh

Cede locum lesus fortune cede potenti

Redere qui potuit aliquādo prodesse valebit

Yeue place to hym that exceedith thy might

Thaugh y be hurt It may pffite par chance

And selde auayleth any man to sight

Agem suche oon that passith his puyssance

Thaugh al it greue now efre it may auance
For ofte is sene that after greet duresse
The mighty man is ful of gentilnesse
Cum quid peccatis castiga teipse subinde
Vulnera dū sanas dolor est medicina doloris
After thy surfet andy thy greet offence
Chastyse thy self correcte that is a mys
Redresse y to goody reule amēde thy negligēce
Andy forwbe for synne a herrey medicine is
Repente the sore than art thou sauf I Rops
For phisik seith my sone I the ensure
A bitter drinke the sharpe seknesse may cure
Dampnaris nūquā post longū tempus amicu
Mutant mores sed pugnere prima memento
If y haue founde good frendship in a wight
Longe a goo & yet thaugh he begyn to change
Dispeire him not men abide not i oon plight
For sūtime was lordship ther now is grāge
The worldes cours is wondre quēit & strāge
But thaugh as now the mā is Wex vnkynde
Yet is old frendship remembryd ap in mynde
Gracior officijs quo sis mage carior esto
Ne nomen subeas quod dicatur officij per di

Though it bre the in office to be set
 Than be thou gentil & gracious to other men
 That they may reporte a godly is met
 With office and so good name shal ren
 Aboute of the but assure the lest When
 The officer is vnbounde than seith the p. ces
 Now wold to god y this mā were officiales
 Suspectus caueas ne sis miser omnibus horis
 Nam timidus et suspectus aptissima mors est
 Be not suspect that is a Wilkidy teche
 The suspect man With cowardy ferfulnesse
 In his liuyng is but a verrey breche
 Mys is a mys but al he wold redresse
 He demeth fals and fayleth certlineffe
 By fals concept set in malencolpe
 Sleth him a noon thus deth endith his folpe
 Cum seruos fueris pprios mercatus in vsus
 Et famulos dicas hoies tamen esse memento
 Of thou haue men Withoute freedom & liberte
 Suche as ben cleped men of bondage
 Notwithstanding they be vnder thy captiuite
 yet honoure suche & ouer hem be not to outrage
 Of they beholde vnder thy wordly seruage

For al they ben bounde yet serrey men they be
that god hath made theim me yet ay remembre þ
Quā plurimū capiēda tibi est occasio prima

Ne rursus querās que iam neglexeris ante
Thy first fortune receyue With redimesse
Refuse it not though it be skant & smal
It is Wel better in gre to take the lesse
Than to refuse it and after fayle of al
Yestis of fortune take hym ay as thy ful
Refuse hym now & este thou shalt haue nede
Therefore it is to take Whan me pfre & bede

Morte repentina noli gaudere maloz

Felices obiuunt quoz sine crimine vita

Reioyse the neuer my child in al thy lyf
The soden deth of a cursedy man & wreche
Whan he is ded the soule may not relef
From payne to ioy the soule may not reche
The fendes halde ay fore that they may keche
Therefore Who þ lyuith iustly ful Wel doth he
For his soule is ay ful of fellicite

Cum cōiūny tibi sit nec res et fama laborat

Vitandum ducas inimicum nomen amici

W thou haue a Wyf in assurance

Truste hire Wele and? loue hir in Wardlye
 With hert With thought With al thy affiance
 And? be thou neuer infect With suspect Jelosie
 Yf no fault be in hire or that thou can espye
 Yet yf thy frend? tel the suche is the fame
 He is a frend? and? she no thing? to blame
 Cum tibi contingerit studio cognoscere multa
 Hac discas multa vita nescire doceri

Whan thurgh studeye and? gret exersise
 Thou knowest moche & hast gret cumyng
 Yet ay do thy diligence in the moost besy Wyse
 To purchase more for it is a holfome thing?
 For to gret honour cumyng? may the bring?
 And? escheue thou neuer dailly to be taught
 For Withoute teching? cūyng? may not be caught
 Miraris verbis nudis me scribere versus
 Hec breuitas sensus fecit coniungere binos
 Yf thou aught meruayle or lust to muse
 In naked wordes Why my versis thus I Write
 In no Wyse trewly I may me better excuse
 Than sey my Wit so dul is and? Imperfyte
 Whiche arteth me thus rudely for to indite
 By two and? two my metre for to knyt

Alto thing causeth me but simplenesse of Wyte
Nowe I haue gadered floures to your lyst
Tasteth theym for they be preseruatyf
Holdeth theym fast & kepe hem in your lyst
For the pestilence eyre Whiche is infectyf
I conseyle you and I ieparde my lyf
That ye shul lede your lyf in sekernesse
And eke ateyne to moche Worthinesse
This mene I to you vnder probation
Of your gode grace What tyme ye rede
Or ellis haue in this mater inspection
As it biddeth that ye wol do in dede
Than dar I afferme Withoute drede
Ye shul achue and be ful vertuous
Here haue I fonde that shal you guyde & lede
Streight to gode fame & leue you in his hous
Explicit Catho.



abc d¹⁰ 34 leaves (1-34) Leaf 1

blanks, wanting in this copy.

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